

FILIBUSTERS PART OF THE DEMOCRATS' CYNICAL CAMPAIGN OF OBSTRUCTION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Senate Democrats are blocking votes on qualified judicial nominees. Each of these nominees would receive the majority support of most Senators in a vote. So it was interesting when Democrats say exposing these obstructionist tactics is un-American, in the words of one Senator.

The fact is Democrats oppose these judges because they support judges who say the Ten Commandments, the Pledge, and prayer in public are illegal. They support judges who have no fear of legislating from the bench. They oppose judges who share the same values as most of America. But they do not want people to know that. They would rather keep that all under wraps.

But there is a growing voice in this country that is calling them out. Senate Democrats and their liberal allies at the ACLU and People for the American Way have declared people of faith ineligible to serve on the Federal bench. This strategy represents the worst that our Nation's leaders have to offer, using religious conviction as an excuse for obstructionism in the Senate. It is all part of a cynical campaign of obstructionism.

THE ENERGY POLICY ACT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, now is the time to create an energy plan to wean this country from its reliance on foreign oil and to harness renewable energy sources. It is not the time to line the pockets of the special interests. This Congress should be developing a long-term energy policy that will make this Nation energy independent by utilizing 21st-century technology, not propping up obsolete energy sources guaranteed to continue this Nation's reliance on the oil, gas, and nuclear industries.

We should be putting our resources into the research and development of renewable energy, harness the sun, wind, geothermal. At a time when oil companies are reaping record profits, the Republican energy bill will give 93 percent of the subsidies in this bill to the oil, gas, and nuclear industries and chump change for research and development of renewable energy. It boggles my mind that at a time of record prices for gasoline, we are doing absolutely nothing in this bill to reduce gas prices. This debacle of a Republican bill will actually increase gas prices by 3 cents on the gallon.

I am appalled that we would spend one cent more on nuclear energy when

we have no solution to the nuclear waste problem. We continue to lavish billions of dollars on the nuclear industry when we have no safe way to store the waste. I hope that we defeat this ridiculous piece of legislation.

HOUSE ETHICS

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Democrat leadership in the House of Representatives rejected compromise to organize the House Ethics Committee. They rejected reasonable compromise because they want to use the ethics process for partisan political purposes. It is time to say enough is enough. The Democrat leadership must work with the Republican leadership so we can move this House forward. Reasonable Democrats on the other side of the aisle need to call off the dogs, need to say enough is enough with their Democrat whip and their Democrat leader and say, Come to the table. Let's organize. Let's move forward. Let's quit these baseless, partisan attacks on our Republican leader, TOM DELAY. Let's move forward. Let's move forward together as a House.

But, no, they reject that because they want to use the ethics process for partisan political gain. It is not about ethics to them. It is about partisanship. It is not about doing what is right. It is about using it for electoral gain, and it is not going to work. Enough is enough. Reasonable Democrats, come to the table. Let us work through this process and move this House forward.

HOUSE ETHICS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the year, the House Republican leadership has worked to undermine the ethics process here in the House. First, the leadership floated an ethics proposal that would have allowed members of its leadership to continue to serve in leadership if they were indicted. Now under the weakened rules, the new chairman of the committee says he will conduct an investigation of one of the Republican leaders.

The American people should not be fooled. The leadership rushed through a new rule that ends ethics complaints after 45 days. And then the Republican leadership purged the committee of three members who were not always willing to toe the party line. And then they replaced them with party loyalists.

The Republican majority has weakened the ethics rules to the point that they are meaningless. The Republican leaders have gone to extreme lengths to protect one of their own. And now

they are trying to deceive the American people into believing that a real investigation would actually take place.

That is a farce.

PRAISING DAVID McMILLON'S ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENT

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise Bentonville High School senior David McMillon for his academic excellence.

When David was in the 10th grade, he scored a 35 on the ACT exam, just one point shy of a perfect score. That excellent score was 14 points higher than the national average. Now a senior, David took the test again, and this time managed to best his previous accomplishment by achieving a perfect score.

David was one of only 17 students who took the ACT last December to get a perfect score. It is quite an elite group when you consider that over 371,000 students across the country took this test last December. And David achieved this honor while serving as captain of the school's ACE team, earning the distinction of National Merit Finalist, and playing the lead in several Bentonville High School drama productions.

Madam Speaker, David McMillon should be praised for this accomplishment. This talented young Arkansan has a bright future ahead of him, and I congratulate him again on this accomplishment.

COSPONSOR THE GAS PRICE SPIKE ACT OF 2005

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, all over this country, the American people are troubled by the fast increasing price of gasoline. The oil companies are making billions of dollars in windfall profits while families have had to tighten their budget. While families have experienced less money for food, clothing, shelter and education, the oil companies continue to rake the American consumer over the coals. The fastest way to bring relief from these high prices is to eliminate the price gouging by the oil companies and reduce demand.

I have submitted a bill called the Gas Price Spike Act of 2005, which will discourage price gouging and reduce demand by implementing, first, a windfall profits tax on gasoline and diesel. Such a tax is to be imposed on key oil industry profits that are above a reasonable rate of return. If the oil companies are collecting excessive profits, they should be subject to a stiff tax on those excessive profits.

It is time to stand up for the American consumers and take on these oil companies.

□ 1015

INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, study after study associates untreated depression with increased rates of chronic illness and increased health care costs. For cancer, heart disease, asthma, arthritis, diabetes the incidence of depression can be double that of the general population. Untreated depression complicates treatment and can double health care costs. Untreated depression can cost employers \$51 billion per year.

Depression management programs, however, can save employers an average of \$2,600 per employee through increased productivity and reduced absenteeism.

The time has come to improve health care by integrating and coordinating medical and mental health services for more effective diagnosis and treatment.

Rather than just cut the payments for health care, Congress can lead the way to saving lives and money through integrated care. Science supports this, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to transform our health care system through innovation, information, and incentives to lower health care costs for every American. I ask my colleagues to learn more about integrated care by visiting my website at Murphy.house.gov.

THE ENERGY BILL

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, today we will vote on the energy bill, written by and for the energy industry in secret meetings with Vice President CHENEY.

Tomorrow is Earth Day, and the theme this year is “Protect our children and our future.” Is this how the Republican Congress envisions celebrating Earth Day and protecting our children and the future?

This bill will pollute our air at a time when childhood asthma rates are growing. It exempts MBTE producers from poisoning our water and keeps us dependent on foreign oil. This environmentally irresponsible bill offers over \$37 billion in tax breaks and subsidies to oil, coal, and nuclear power industries.

The energy industry does not need this money. In 2004 the profits of the top 10 oil and gas companies jumped by more than 30 percent.

The Republican Congress and the administration continue to prioritize short-term corporate profits over long-term health and safety of our children and our earth. We should be protecting our children, our future, and this planet. This energy bill destroys our envi-

ronment. It is a danger to public health. It forces consumers to pay more for gas and keeps us dependent on foreign oil.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 219 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy, with Mr. BONILLA (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday April 20, 2005, amendment No. 14 printed in House report 109-49 offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) had been disposed of.

REQUEST TO OFFER AMENDMENT

Mrs. CAPPSS. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to clause 11 of rule XVIII, I offer an amendment that will strike an unfunded mandate in section 1502.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair will respond momentarily.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. My parliamentary inquiry is that that is not an amendment that we knew and precleared under the Committee on Rules.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Will the gentleman withhold his parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I will be happy to, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Will the gentlewoman consider withholding her motion at this time and perhaps bringing it up a little later?

Mrs. CAPPSS. Mr. Chairman, could we discuss this, please?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Bringing up the motion at a later time would be perfectly acceptable and would give the Chair an opportunity to evaluate the situation.

Mrs. CAPPSS. Mr. Chairman, I am willing to withhold the amendment without prejudice to give us time for discussion.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withheld without prejudice.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House report 109-49.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. UDALL OF NEW MEXICO

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:
Strike section 631 (and amend the table of contents accordingly).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 219, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to first thank the Committee on Rules and the gentleman from California (Chairman DREIER) for making my amendment in order. My amendment strikes section 631 of this legislation. Section 631 is typical of this flawed, shortsighted energy bill, which does not give us a national energy policy and does not help consumers with high gas prices.

Section 631 is a \$30 million giveaway to dangerous uranium mine technology. It is unsound fiscal policy for an unproven type of mining. Furthermore, this \$30 million giveaway will encourage a company to pollute the groundwater of a community of 10,000 Navajo Indians.

At its worst, this section targets a minority community with a dangerous technology and uses them in an experiment. At best, it is an unwarranted giveaway to the uranium mining industry.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. The Udall amendment would strike from the energy bill all funding for research and development into environmentally sensitive uranium mining and reclamation technologies.

Uranium mining is necessary for the production of enriched uranium that is necessary to create nuclear fuel used in nuclear power plants. The bill before us today paves the way for an expansion of the domestic nuclear industry, and we need to authorize funding to develop more environmentally sensitive uranium technologies to feed the growing demand for nuclear power.

Section 631 of the bill creates a uranium mining research and development